AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

CANCEL CLAIMS 1-9

- 10. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing and/or setting air and steam-permeable structural members containing a mixture of thermoplastic binder and fibers, optionally with additional foam in the form or flakes and/or granules, said process comprising the steps of:
- (a) positioning a structural member between shaping surfaces in a pressure resistant chamber of a mold having upper tool and lower tool portions, said shaping surfaces having a low to no heat transfer to or from the mold;
 - (b) deaerating the chamber by applying a vacuum;
- (c) pressurizing said vacuum chamber with a vaporous heat-transfer medium; and
- (d) applying a vacuum to said chamber to evaporate the condensed heat-transfer medium.
- 11. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 10, wherein the heat transfer per unit mass of the structural member between the vaporous heat-transfer medium and the pressure resistant chamber is lower than 250 m²/s² per 1 m² of surface of the structural member and per 1 K of heating the structural member.
- (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 10, wherein the structural member has at least two layers.
- (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 12 wherein said layers are of different materials.

- 14 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 10 wherein said shaping surfaces are perforated metal sheets spaced apart from said pressure resistant chamber thereby defining a steam channeling space.
- (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 14 wherein said metal sheets are disposed at a distance of from about 2 to about 20 mm from said pressure resistant chamber.
- (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 10 wherein the shaping surfaces comprise a layer of material having a low thermal conductivity.
- 17. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 46 14 wherein said sheets have a layer thickness of from about 1 to about 30 mm.
- (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 16 wherein said layer of material is selected from the group consisting essentially of PTFE, EPDM, epoxy resin or phenolic resin.
- 19. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 10 wherein said upper and lower mold tools include contoured blocks which form the mold base.
- (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 19 wherein said contoured blocks are formed from a material selected from the group consisting essentially of aluminum steel, cast iron or cast aluminum.
- 21. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 19 wherein said mold bases are heated to a temperature to between about 120 ° to 180 °C.
- (Currently Amended) A process for preparing and/or setting air and steampermeable structural members containing a mixture of thermoplastic binder and fibers,

optionally with additional foam in the form or flakes and/or granules, said process comprising the steps of:

- (a) positioning a structural member between shaping surfaces in a pressure resistant chamber of a mold having upper tool and lower tool portions, said shaping surfaces having a low to no heat transfer to or from said mold:
- (b) deaerating the chamber by applying a vacuum within a range of from 0.5 to 0.01 bar absolute;
- (c) pressurizing said vacuum chamber with a vaporous heat-transfer medium in the form of steam within a pressure range of from 2 to 10 bar absolute to condensate the structural member; and
- (d) applying a vacuum to said chamber to evaporate the condensed heat-transfer medium within a range of from 0.5 to 0.1 bar absolute;

whereby the heat transfer per unit mass of the structural member between the vaporous heat-transfer medium and the pressure resistant chamber is lower than 250 m²/s² per 1 m² of surface of the structural member and per 1 K of heating the structural member.

- 23. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 22, wherein the structural member has at least two lavers.
- 24. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 23 wherein at least two of said layers are of different materials.
- 25 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 21 wherein said shaping surfaces are perforated metal sheets spaced apart from said pressure resistant chamber thereby defining a steam channeling space, said sheets being disposed at a distance of from about 2 to about 20 mm from said pressure resistant chamber.
- (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 21 wherein the shaping surfaces comprise a layer of material having a low thermal conductivity, said

sheets applied to the mold chamber in a layer thickness of from about 1 to about 30 mm.

- (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 21 wherein said upper and lower mold tools include contoured blocks which form mold bases.
- (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 27 wherein said contoured blocks are formed from a material selected from the group consisting essentially of aluminum, steel, cast iron or cast aluminum.
- 29. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 27 wherein said mold bases are heated to a temperature to between about 120 °to 180 °C.